SANDY ISLAND CAMPS

Report for the 39th Season--1937
and the 5th Season of Family Camp.

Mr. Roehrig, Mr. Adams, and members of the Sandy Island Committee:

I. ATTENDANCE

430 campers, 355 of whom attended Men's Camp gave the season a 40% attendance increase over 1936 and an average daily attendance of 76 campers, the largest since 1929. Daily attendance ranged from 39 to 114, with 153 at one Sunday meal.

Ages ranged from 15 to 67 during Men's Camp, the average being 28.74 years. The length of stay was 10.1 days, a 10% increase over 1936. 44 or 12.4% of the male campers were members of the Boston YMCA; 160 or 45.1% acknowledged membership in 42 other associations; and 151 or 42.5% were non-Y-members.

Several trends deserve special note: (1) The patronage from the Boston YMCA fell from 80 men in 1936 to 44 this year. (2) The adoption of a 10% quota for Jewish campers undoubtedly cut attendance, particularly from Boston. (3) We were the direct beneficiaries of the closing of three men's camps during the past two seasons: Camp Beacon of the Brooklyn Central Y, the Boston YMCU camp in Massachusetts, and Camp DeMolay on Lake Winnepesaukee, these three camps adding perhaps 30 campers to our enrollment. (4) This increase may have been offset in part by the growing tendency to follow boys' camp periods with a week or two of adult camping.

The wisdom of not opening camp until about July 4 was clearly demonstrated (see Table A) and it is specifically RECOMMENDED that the 1938 season open officially on Saturday, July 2, 1938 and run for six weeks.

(Disposition of recommendation: accepted)

Family Camp closed four days early when it became apparent that attendance was not going to warrant continuing to the previously-announced date of closing. In the two weeks Family Camp did operate, however, attendance equalled the three-week high record of 1936. It is RECOMMENDED that Family Camp operate from August 14 to August 28 in 1938.

(Disposition of recommendation: accepted)

In connection with Family Camp, it should be noted that but six single girls attended Sandy under the new provisions for accomodating them. Only one of these was referred to us by YWCA auspices, although our expectation was that from both the Boston and Worcester associations we would encounter no difficulty in recruiting fifteen single women. It is suggested that this matter be again referred to the Misses Droll and West of those YWCA's.

II. FINANCIAL STATUS

As of September 10, 1937 receipts for the season totalled about $11,500 and expenses about $9,000 with some $100 receivable and about $500 yet to be expended. The $9,000 includes the $1,000 annually charged against Sandy Island by the Boston YMCA for supervision and service which charge, as voted by the Sandy Island Committee on July 24, 1937 should be investigated with a view to setting some principle of assessment by some appointee of the Board of Trustees of the Boston YMCA.

Budgetary figures have, on the whole, been lived within, excess expenditures being those necessitated by a larger camp than anticipated. These surpluses occurred largest in the food and equipment accounts, the latter being the costs of replenishing supplies of sheets and pillow cases not replenished since 1930. Also $50 was spent for a very fine second-hand canoe. The laundry bill will probably be larger than expected.

The rate reduction experiment,--granting to those who applied ten days in advance of coming to camp the application of their registration fees to their first week's board and a further reduction of $1.00 per week to YMCA members who applied early--, was apparently successful in securing the objects desired, namely enabling more careful buying of food with resultant less kitchen waste and, at the same time, satisfying YMCA members that their membership was being recognized. A continuance of this plan and the same rates is RECOMMENDED for 1938.

(Disposition of recommendation: accepted)

Further rebates and/or prizes for bringing new campers were suggested by Mr. Bendix at the mid-summer meeting. This committee should consider these at our first meeting.

Our unexpected result of the plan for earlier registration has been to bring larger cash sums to camp. While no difficulty has been encountered to date, it might be wise to bond those who have to handle these sums, amounting at one time, as actually happened, to more than $1000. 1937.

One other budgetary aspect: circumstances enabled a substantial reduction of the budget for wages. Although a bonus amounting to $150 was distributed to nearly all staff members at the close of camp (not including myself) it is RECOMMENDED that another $150 be distributed as a bonus to staff members at about Christmas time.

(Disposition of recommendation: accepted)

The net surplus of receipts over expenditures brings up the question of turning this amount back into equipment to further combat the still-annoying charge that Sandy still presents a needlessly dilapidated appearance. Some definite recommendations appear in the section headed New Business.

As of Sept. 1st, 1967 results, our fiscal situation about $11,500 and expenses about $5,000 with some $100 receivable and about $600 yet to be approved. The $9,000 insurance by $1,500 annually charged against dues issued by the Joint Committee for administration the service union college, so actual is $1,500 dues lapsed in July 66. 1967 should be investigated with a view to getting some payment or reassessment by some appropriate of the board of Trustees or the Joint Fund.

Secretary Elbert Lewis, on sabbatical, been issued activity, renewed expenditure today, some considerable of a larger case than anticipated. Some non-dues sources increased interest in the form of the expenses, the latter being the cost of publication supplies of essays and pillow cases are multi-lined since 1967. Also 1967 was remarkably for a very fine second-hand clothes. The Laundry will still produce a larger cash expense.

The cost reduction measures,--practicing to those who qualified temporary of course to run the equivalent of basic 'p-instruction free to their first work's score and a greater reduction of $1.00 per week to full member the spring only--, are a strongly successful in practice, but quite costly. Hardly anything, are certainly supply or free, only remainder have already been made, as the same time, satisfying real members that quite generally not going-grad. A continuance of this plan as the same rate is recommended for 1968.

(Discussion of recommendation:)

Various reasons and/or letter for problems are answer, and answered by Pr. Public at the all-member meeting. Full consideration/operation issue at our first meeting.

Our unexpected result of our plan for effect treatment has been to drive larger [illegible] to them. Again by accidents has been unsolicited to date, it plans to also to some there and have a double issue soon, meeting at the [illegible], to [illegible], to our-this (1967).

One other [illegible] report: [illegible] a sub-stantial reduction of the budget for essays. Although [illegible] and to 1970 was already [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] or [illegible] (not [illegible] [illegible]) [illegible] a distributed as a boon to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

(Discussion of recommendation:)

The 4th motion of [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. How the 1936 recommendations were met:

(1) This committee approved expending $500 for a tractor. A satisfactory one was procured at this price and has been in operation this summer. There is still need for a small truck for hauling light loads between north dock and kitchen, such a truck having two distinct advantages: many staff men would be able to operate it, and trips could be made in less than half the time required by the tractor, thereby enabling more efficient use of staff time.

(2) Another $500 was appropriated from capital funds for the purchase and installation of chlorinating equipment. A chlorinator which we were able to install ourselves was bought (new) for $300, leaving $200 in this fund.

(3) $200 was similarly appropriated for ice-house repairs. In view of possible developments in re-building on the island, it was felt unwise to proceed with these repairs. The staff managed to effect some temporary repairs, good perhaps for another five years, at a cost of about $15 which was entered under the regular budget for repairs.

(4) A new sectional raft was constructed as planned, at a cost of $32 instead of $45. It should last at least five years.

(5) In view of probable housing developments, no new tents were purchased. Old tents not used since 1929 were pressed into service.

(6) Although the purchase of a speed-boat was effected as narrated in the 1936 report, this piece of equipment has become the property of North Woods Camp. The 1936 report called for extensive repairs on canoes and replacement of three rowboats at $30 each. The canoes are now being completely repaired and refinished. Boats having advanced more than 100% in price since 1936, no new ones were purchased but letters requesting prices for building us six new ones have been addressed to four firms in the lake region.

B. Promotion and Publicity

Faced with the promotional problem for the 40th anniversary, a little recapitulation is in order. In 1937 all the previously tried publicity devices, including folders, calendars, reunions, news bulletins, circularizing of YMCA's, church groups, fraternal groups, business organizations, outing clubs, showing the camp movies extensively from Baltimore to Manchester, were tried again, with the exception of newspaper advertising. Judging by the answers of campers to "How did you hear of Sandy?" the effectiveness of advertising approaches seems to have been, in this order; (1) word of mouth recommendation (2) the camp movies (3) folders and recommendation by YMCA secretaries, (4) the subway posters. Many reported that studying the folder cleared up most of their doubts. Effective, too, was the device of sending to home newspapers a squib saying that John Doe was spending his vacation at the Sandy Island Camp, etc.

III. OLD PROJECTS

1. Now the 1939 recommendations are:

(1) This committee approved expending $200 for a theater. A satisfactory one has been procured at half price and the room is certainly quite fair. There is still need for a small screen for showing films, since battery models look one cluttered, and a frame battery the two distinct disadvantages: some chairs can easily be moved to operate it, and strip cards on walls or less than half the size required by the theater, thereby making note-taking out of short time.

(2) Another $800 was appropriated from capital funds for the purchase and installation of [illegible] equipment. A satisfactory [illegible] so were sent to Ingersoll Screenlyte and Kodak (Rome) for $600, leaving $200 in this fund.

(3) $300 was tentatively appropriated for [illegible]. In view of possible [illegible] in re-building on the lawns, it was felt desirable to provide this [illegible]. The chief [illegible] to offers some temporary [illegible], good [illegible] for [illegible] years, with cost of about $[illegible] was entered under the [illegible] budget for repairs.

(4) A new [illegible] was purchased on [illegible], at a cost of $[illegible] of [illegible]. It should last at least five years.

(5) In view of possible [illegible] development, a [illegible] were purchased. The [illegible] used [illegible] previous [illegible] activity.

(6) Although the [illegible] of a [illegible] was effective as [illegible] in the 1939 season, this [illegible] of equipment has [illegible] property of [illegible]. The 1940 [illegible] calls for [illegible] requires no [illegible] and [illegible] of large [illegible] at $[illegible]. The [illegible] are now [illegible] and [illegible]. Since [illegible] advanced [illegible] in [illegible] since 1936, no [illegible] were [illegible] but [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] on [illegible] have been [illegible] to [illegible] in the [illegible] region.

2. Promotion and Publicity

[illegible] the [illegible] for the [illegible], a little [illegible] in [illegible]. In [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Negotiations for taking more movies fell through, largely because the several people approached felt that they should be paid in addition to receiving their vacations free. RECOMMENDED is the advance securing of some competent person to spend two weeks free at Sandy (the last week of Men's Camp and the first of Family Camp) but not to pay him in addition.

(Disposition of recommendation: need hiring of camera. loan (Reid))

Much promotional work must be done in connection with whatever drive for funds is to accompany the observance of the 40th anniversary. I agreed to make a circle graph showing "how the Sandy dollar is spent" but have not had time to do so. This should of course be done and might well accompany any publicity sent to campers.

The office is now in the process of compiling a mailing list of campers from earliest records to date. Suggested,too, has been a questionnaire, particularly addressed to Family Campers, asking what they like and dislike about Sandy. Mr. Racine has listed for presentation at our first meeting several other devices which I think should be undertaken.

Judging by comments at camp, the mid-winter reunions should be continued. Campers have volunteered everywhere to accompany the showing of the present films with running comment wherever we may see fit to show them.

RECOMMENDED is that the entire problem of publicity and promotion be assigned to a sub-committee, to be headed by Mr. Racine, for devising and executing promotional and publicity plans for 1938. display — Racine, Foley, Edwards, ~~[illegible]~~, Fuld, Gil Cox

(Disposition of recommendation: Accepted.)

Two considerations for immediate action are here presented: (1) that the decrease in attendance from the Boston YMCA calls for special consideration by the secretaries here; (2) since word of mouth advertising is admittedly our most effective advertising, Mr. Bendix's suggestion of either rebates or a prize for bringing the largest number of new campers should receive favorable consideration.

IV. ACTIVITIES

From an administrative point of view, the 1937 program appears to have been better balanced than that of 1936, with a noteworthy and surprisingly keen interest in the strictly voluntary Sunday morning services which lead on two occasions to subsequent evening forums at which the speakers' remarks were submitted to further analysis. Services were held every Sunday including the one on which the transition from Men's Camp to Family Camp was made.

Equally noteworthy was the better spirit which dominated "improvement hour", the one-hour period per week during which the campers did work which would ordinarily have to be performed by the staff. Men

Negotiations for taking such notice fell through, largely because the several people approached felt that they should be paid in addition to receiving their regular fees. [illegible] is the average amount of some consultant period to spend two weeks free at study (the lack of [illegible] time and the fees of [illegible]) but not to pay him in addition.

(Disposition of recommendations: [illegible])

Such professional work ought to come in consultation [illegible] over drive for funds is to encourage the observance of the high [illegible]. I agreed to make a strong plea [illegible] "the city dolice is spent" but have not the time to do so. This [illegible] of course be done and which will encourage any [illegible] work to [illegible].

The office is now in the process of compiling a mailing list of [illegible] from municipal [illegible] to date. Unfortunately, [illegible] [illegible], particularly [illegible] to [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] like and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] has [illegible] for [illegible] of our first [illegible], several other [illegible] [illegible] I think [illegible] be [illegible].

Dealing by [illegible] at [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] be continued. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

often worked more than the allotted hour and things were accomplished which the staff would not have had time to tackle.

Athletic activities still dominate the program, with tennis and softball easily the preferred sports. The inter-camp program included eleven baseball games and eight tennis matches.

Hiking and mountain climbing, organized to permit several groups to visit different points on the same day, were fairly popular, 19 having taken place, not including the ever-popular canoe hikes taken by smaller groups.

Nature study was encouraged by the laying out of a nature trail and two talks on astronomy in connection with Fisler's comet.

Indoor entertainment followed customary lines, two of the camp shows providing very superior entertainment of a musical order. Informal sings were frequent and spontaneous.

This program was also very much the program of Family Camp, with the addition of weekly get-acquainted parties and a beach party.

V. PRESSING NEEDS FOR 1938

A. Boats and canoes.

As previously noted, I have committed the camp to an expenditure of $250 for refinishing ten canoes at $25.00 each. It should be known that many of these canoes are twenty or more years old. Six bids were received, the Wolfeboro bid being accepted because Goodhue and Hawkins would handle the job from collecting them at Sandy to getting them back to us upon demand next July.

Boats present a more difficult problem because many of them which were given the camp by Mr. Fernald Hutchins thirty years ago are now so water-rotted and caulked with white lead as to be unmanageable and unsafe. The purchase of six new ones in 1938 is RECOMMENDED at a cost not to exceed $50 per boat, the $300 to come from capital funds.

(Disposition of recommendation: OK'd as part of budget)

B. Nets for outdoor games.

We do not own a single net of any description which is in a respectable condition. In view of the great use of the tennis and volley-ball courts, purchase of four new tennis nets, a volley-ball net, badminton equipment, and a back-stop net for handball is RECOMMENDED, the cost not to exceed $100.

(Disposition of recommendation: OK'd as part of budget)

C. Building needs.

Most pressing is our need for new buildings. In view of the

often worked more than the allotted hour and twice were accomplished when the staff could not work and then to tasks.

Athletic activities still dominate the program, with tennis and football easily the favorite sports. The inter-camp program included eleven baseball games and eight tennis matches.

Hiking, the mountain climbing, organized to permit several groups to visit different points on the same day, were fairly popular, 11 being taken place, not including the ever-popular camp-fires taken by smaller groups.

Nature study was encouraged by the loaning out of a nature trail and two hours on astronomy in connection with Miss's house.

Indoor entertainment followed customary lines, two of the camp shows providing very amusing entertainment of a musical nature. Informal sings were frequent and spontaneous.

This program was also very much the program of Family Camp, with the addition of weekly get-acquainted parties and a bread party.

V. Financial Aspects for 1935

A. Costs and income.

As previously noted, I have constructed the case, by an arrangement of fees for Family Camp that occurred at 125.00 each. It should be borne in mind that many of their campers are twenty or more years old. Six also were married, the husbands did being accompanied because Goodson and Barrows would charge the five dollars collecting them at Camp to carried this need to be done during each trip.

Food proved a very difficult problem because many of them which were given the camp by Mr. Ternell involving thirty years ago are now so water-rotted and contains bits which had to be unmanageable and unsafe. The purchase of six new sets in 1935 is anticipated. It is most not to expend 100 per cent, the $100 to some 1935 capital fund.

(Disposition of recommendation:)

B. Keep the outdoor plans.

We do not own a single set of log description which is in a respectable condition. In view of the great use of the tennis and volley-ball courts, purchase of four new tennis nets, a volley-ball net, badminton equipment, and a base-stop net for baseball is recommended, the cost not to exceed $100.

(Disposition of recommendation:)

C. Building needs.

Most pressing is our need for new buildings. In view of the

hopeless condition of many of our tents and the probable need for increased housing facilities for 1938, and in view of our intention to develop Family Camp, these needs are specifically for four cabins to house six to eight campers each, and for radically improved toilet facilities.

Bids have been received from two sources,--one to build the four cabins for $2000 and the two new washroom-toilets for $1900: the other, from a local carpenter for $2900 to build all six buildings complete with plumbing and septic tanks.

In each case the design of the new buildings is to approximate the design of the present cabins and their placement is as yet not determined in view of the desirability of locating them in terms of a comprehensive plan for the development of the island.

The big problem they beget is that of increasing our water-storage and water-pumping capacity. To meet their needs a new motor, storage tank, and pump will be required, costing another $1000.

The expenditure of about $3800 for these buildings and necessitated power and water changes is RECOMMENDED building to commence this fall.

(Disposition of recommendation: Accepted for rec. to Board)

D. Mattresses

It is going to be necessary to discard about fifty badly lumped and matted cotton mattresses. It would be well to replace these with fifty garneted felt mattresses which can be secured at $5.85 each or a total expenditure of nearly $300.

(Disposition of Recommendation: accepted)

E. Crib at Front Dock

One of the most unsatisfactory pieces of equipment (which is now, in fact, smashed beyond repairing) is the cribbing for the front dock. This year a patch-work wharf which gave the impression of imminent collapse did little to improve the appearance of camp. It is therefore RECOMMENDED that a permanent crib (i.e., one anchored with boulders and strengthened by six piles 12 x 24 feet) be built in accordance with the specifications submitted by Mr. Lavallee (qq.v) at a cost of $216.

(Disposition of recommendation: accepted)

F. Insurance

Inspection of our insurance on the island revealed, among other things, that some of our most valuable property was uninsured, that other items were over-insured, and that costs could be reduced by upwards of 10%. RECOMMENDED is the study and complete revision of our insurance coverage with a view to reducing its cost.

(Disposition of recommendation:)

replaced condition of many of our towns and the pressing need for increased housing facilities for 1956, and in view of our intention to service family units, we do hope we qualifying for four months as well as eight occupancy, and for providing increased visitor facilities.

Bids have been received from two sources,--one to build the four units for about the two new structures-related, the other (1)(2): the other, from a local carpenter for $6000 to build all six buildings complete with plumbing and electric heat.

In each case the design of the new buildings is so appropriate the design of the property during the light placement is as yet not determined in view of the desirability of locating them in terms of a comprehensive plan for the development of the island.

The old problem has lost in area of increasing our motor-tourists and water-quality. We must study which is a new motor, storage tank, and pump will be required, costing another $1000.

The expenditure of about $6000 for these buildings and probably power and water changes is [illegible] [illegible] to consider this fall.

(Discussion of recommendation:)

I. Maintenance

It is going to be necessary to always cover dirt daily lawns and mowed grass maintenance. It would be well to replace [illegible] with [illegible] generated fill materials which can be secured at $3.50 each or a total expenditure of nearly $900.

(Discussion of recommendation:)

II. Cost of Food Use

One of the most unsatisfactory phases of equipment (which is [illegible] is food. It is [illegible] [illegible] is the criticism for the food loss. This year's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

VI. FAMILY CAMP

Experimentation revealed the lack of wisdom of trying to separate the costs of Family Camp from those of Men's Camp, the fact that it takes a camp of close to fifty per day to meet costs of operation as camp is now organized. The marked recreational success of the 1937 Family Camp does, however, indicate the direction in which the YMCA can offer a profitable vacation to all parties but only if the improvements mentioned in the previous section can be effected. There was no more enthusiastic group than the Family Camp group, enthusiastic for the continuance of the Family Camp and for those improvements which will add materially to the comfort of women on the island.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter M. Taylor
Director

VI. Family Camp

Experimentation revealed the lack of plans or trying to accurate the needs of family camp from those of men's camp, but that task is still a long or close to fifty per day to meet costs of operation as camp is now organized. The marked psychological success of the 1937 family camp year, however, indicates the direction in which the YMCA can offer a worthwhile vacation to all parties but only if the improvements mentioned in the previous section can be effected. There was no men's membership group near the family camp grounds, establishing for the convenience of the family camp and for their improvement which will not materially by the co-ord or means on the lake.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Taylor
Director